

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 December 2022

COUNCILLOR A BROWN - CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT

For the period November to December 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

General overview.

Nutrient Neutrality

I reported most recently that we remain on target for delivery of the longer term strategy, being no later than February 2023. Regular meetings continue to take place with NNDC officers and Natural England (NE), enabling detailed discussion on individual cases and also a strategic overview as to delivery of NE mitigation across the Broads and Wensum catchments.

The last point in relation to delivery of mitigation is where I will focus this update. A Joint Venture board is being set up which will provisionally include partners Anglian Water, NNDC, Breckland DC, Norwich City Council , South Norfolk and Broadland DC.

The Joint Venture would be established with the potential to provide a range of environmental credits, initially focusing on nutrient neutrality. The initial planning phase will run through to March 2023 when, subject to agreement the Joint Venture will be established. At that time (subject to council agreement) it is envisaged that the partners will then enter the Joint Venture. The aim is to have the governance up and running by March 2023, alongside developing some short-term mitigation solutions at the launch.

Protecting the natural environment in our rivers and Special Areas of Conservation remains a priority. However, the nutrient neutrality constraints that have been placed on the council present a huge barrier to growth and addressing some the wider social and economic challenges. A solution needs to be found swiftly that meets the local requirements without creating a further uncertainty across the wider region. The proposed Joint Venture with Anglian Water and the other local authorities that have been significantly affected by nutrient neutrality can enable the hold on many planning applications to be released in the short term.

DLUHC - An amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was proposed on the 18 November 2022, which if adopted is expected to reduce the mitigation requirement for phosphorus by 36% and nitrogen by 65% post

2030. This will be essential to providing more viable solutions with Anglian Water in the Joint Venture's portfolio of mitigation.

Development Management

Detailed reports are provided to Development Committee on these matters, Please refer to these reports for any detailed consideration on matters of speed and quality of decision to the Development Committee. I note a single case determined out of time this month and that for three of four weeks our teams returned 100% of all cases in time. Our performance continues to improve and I am pleased to report my appreciation for the sustained improvements in timeliness of decision making for this service area.

I attended the recent meeting of GRAC at which Audit recommendations for the S106 process were discussed. I am pleased to report favourable consideration of the officer's report which detailed the S106 software system is launched and publically viewable. Further work will be undertaken to ensure that full functionality is available for users. Interviews for a S106 officer are taking place on 19 December. The additional work is to be lead by a newly appointed S106 officer early in the new year. Officers will be providing a member briefing on the s106 process and the new software on 19 January. I will aim top roll that briefing out for our parish and Town Councils. IO am pleased to see a more transparent service and greater support will eb available for our communities as a result of this new software.

I am briefed that the Planning Service Improvement Plan (PSIP),will be reported as a detailed action plan to the February meeting of Overview & Scrutiny. The PSIP, has resulted from a series of detailed workshops guided by the Planning Advisory Service Toolkit, and the review of the public survey outcomes. I note some early "wins" are being implemented, e.g. Officer on call process.

Planning Policy & neighbourhood planning

Our team are reporting Regulation 19 responses, outcomes and recommendations to meetings of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party (PPBH) meetings of 12 December & 16 January. Further reporting to Full Council and final recommendations to Cabinet will follow. I will be looking for submission of the plan to The Planning Inspectorate no later than March 2023.

The Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan is nears its final stage. The next step will be a local referendum for the plan to be made.

Holt & Wells Next the Sea neighbourhood plans have completing their consultation stages. Local Working Parties will be collating and considering all responses and where appropriate making amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will then be submitted to North Norfolk District Council for checking, further consultation and

independent examination. I will give more detailed updates on time lines and progress as they become available.

Conservation, Design & Landscape

I am pleased to report that the Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2022) was supported by a community consultation meeting on 30 November. The community consultation is running until 20 January with exhibitions at Blakeney, Cromer, Holt and Hunworth.

Following the community consultation and review of all representations received, the Appraisals and Management Proposals will be reviewed / amended and reported for consideration by the Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party before formal adoption by Cabinet. The document will then become a material consideration in the North Norfolk District Council planning process.

Building Control

Workload has generally eased, I can report that all service standards are either being met or exceeded.

I am pleased to the successful introduction of the Mobile App for officers will form the template for roll out of mobile working for Enforcement and Development Management. We expect that the efficiency savings and benefits will provide a strong business case for investment in these areas.

Enforcement

The team have 323 current live cases; 413 cases have been created this year with. The number of live cases stands at a low level with case closures being higher and timelier than previously recorded.

100% of enforcement cases are acknowledged and input within time, with at least 95% of site inspections being undertaken within 10 days. The team are now focussed on clearing a backlog of cases that have exceeded the resolution deadline.

Staffing

I can report the recruitment of two Senior Planning Officers to the Development Management team, replacing vacant posts from officers who have recently left the service. As detailed above interviews will take place on 19 December for the S106 officer post, further recruitment is underway for a trainee planning officer and planning officer in development management and for a landscape (ecology) officer.

3	Meetings attended
----------	--------------------------

24 November & 8 December - Development Committee

14 November & 12 December - Planning Policy/Built Heritage Working Party

December 6 – GRAC

9 November & 14 December - Overview & Scrutiny

16 November - Full Council

7 November & 5 December - Cabinet